Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 CAB-02

COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 FAA-00 /060 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:TKILLORAN:LA APPROVED BY AF/C:TRBUCHANAN AF/E:RSBARRETT AF/I:DAZACHARY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC,US,AO

SUBJECT: DETENTION OF AMERICAN CREW AND PLANE IN ANGOLA

1. ON FEBRUARY 9, AN AMERICAN PASSENGER PLANE WITH PILOT AND COPILOT ABOARD LANDED IN ANGOLA AND WAS DETAINED BY THE MPLA GOVERNMENT. WE HAVE ASKED THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND MPLA REPRESENTATIVES IN LISBON TO ASSURE THE LUANDA AUTHORITIES THAT THE CREW ARE BONA FIDE CIVILIAN PILOTS NOT ENGAGED IN ANY ILLICIT ACTIVITY AND TO ASK FOR THEIR IMMEDIATE RELEASE. WE HAVE AS YET RECEIVED NO REPLIES TO OUR INITIATIVES AND BELIEVE IT MIGHT BE USEFUL IF OAU SECRETARY GENERAL ETEKI COULD MAKE INQUIRIES.

2. THE PLANE IS AN FH-227B THAT WAS BEING FERRIED FROM THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNITED STATES TO NAMIBIA BY ROGER A. CARLEY, PILOT, AND

RICHARD K. FUSAKIO, COPILOT, BOTH U.S. CITIZENS. THE PLANE IS THE PROPERTY OF ALLEGHENY AIRLINES AND IS BEING SOLD TO SOUTHWEST AIRLINES OF NAMIBIA. THE PLANE CARRIED ONLY DOLLARS 50,000 WORTH OF SPARE PARTS. SOME REPORTS INDICATE THE PLANE MAYHAVE BEEN FORCED DOWN OVER INTERNATIONAL WATERS BY MIG FIGHTERS, BUT WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION. THE FAA BELIVES THE CREW MISSED THE ISLAND OF SAO TOME, WHERE IT WAS SCHEDULED TO REFUEL AFTER LEAVING ROBERTS FIELD IN LIBERIA, RAN OUT OF GAS AND MADE AN EMERGENCY LANDING IN ANGOLA.

3. UNLESS THE EMBASSY PERCEIVES SOME OBJECTIONS, YOU SHOULD BRIEF ETEKI ON THE CASE AND ASK WHETHER HE BELIEVES HE MIGHT HAVE SOME USEFUL ROLE TO PLAY IN OBTAINING THE PROMPT RELEASE OF THE CREW AND THE PLANE. INGERSOLL

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TAGS: CASC, US, AO, MPLA, IRC-3, ALLGHENY AIRLINES, (CARLEY, ROGER), (THORPE)

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